

FISCAL NOTE

Bill #: SB0237

Title: Clarify employment of court reporters

Primary

Sponsor: Mignon Waterman

Status: As introduced

Sponsor signature	Date	Dave Lewis, Budget Director	Date
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Fiscal Summary

	<u>FY2000 Difference</u>	<u>FY2001 Difference</u>
Expenditures:		
General Fund	\$1,359,603	\$1,350,563
State Special Revenue	301,220	310,260
Revenue:		
State Special Revenue	\$301,220	\$310,260
Net Impact on General Fund Balance:	(\$1,359,603)	(\$1,350,563)

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	
X		Significant Local Gov. Impact	X		Technical Concerns
	X	Included in the Executive Budget	X		Significant Long-Term Impacts

Fiscal Analysis

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. The 1997 Annual Report of the Montana Judiciary indicates there were 13,783 civil case filings that year.
2. Civil case filings have increased 3% each year since 1997 and the Judiciary estimates a continuation of the same increase in the 2001 biennium.
3. There are 37 court reporters.
4. The 2001 biennium court reporter salaries are equal to FY 1999 salaries.
5. Travel is estimated at \$10,000 per year, approximately the same as FY 1998.
6. The court reporter charges fees for transcripts in criminal cases and is reimbursed for costs incurred to prepare court transcripts in civil cases; therefore, no supplies or materials are provided by the state.

(continued)

7. Court reporters provide their own specialized equipment.
8. There is no fiscal impact to the Department of Administration.

FISCAL IMPACT:

	FY2000 <u>Difference</u>	FY2001 <u>Difference</u>
FTE	37.00	37.00
<u>Expenditures:</u>		
Personal Services	\$1,650,823	\$1,650,823
Operating Expenses	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
TOTAL	\$1,660,823	\$1,660,823
<u>Funding:</u>		
General Fund (01)	\$1,359,603	\$1,350,563
State Special Revenue (02)	<u>301,220</u>	<u>310,260</u>
TOTAL	\$1,660,823	\$1,660,823
<u>Revenues:</u>		
State Special Revenue (02)	\$301,220	\$310,260
<u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Expenditure):</u>		
State Special Revenue (02)	(\$1,359,603)	(\$1,350,563)

EFFECT ON COUNTY OR OTHER LOCAL REVENUES OR EXPENDITURES:

The District Court Criminal Reimbursement (DCCR) program will no longer cover the criminal portion of court reporters salaries so more DCCR funds will probably be available for grants to counties.

TECHNICAL NOTES:

1. Projected revenue is not adequate to cover projected costs.
2. Provisions in state law (in this bill) allow court reporters to charge fees for transcripts of criminal proceedings and to be reimbursed for the actual cost of preparation of transcripts in civil proceedings. A court reporter, as a state employee, would receive payment for a product they produced while employed by the state. This scenario may result in some legal consequences and impact which are not currently known.